

2.1 NOTICE OF COMPLETION AND DRAFT EIR/EA DISTRIBUTION

The EIR/EA process of the El Paso Line 1903 Conversion Project began with publication of a *Notice of Intent/Preparation to Prepare a Joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment for the Proposed El Paso Line 1903 Pipeline Conversion Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings* (NOI/NOP) on October 15, 2002. The Draft EIR/EA was released for public review on November 23, 2004. A summary of public involvement opportunities during the CEQA process is presented below. A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the scope of the Draft EIR/EA, the comments received on the Draft EIR/EA, and responses to the comments are provided in Section 4 of this Finalizing Addendum/EA.

2.2 PUBLIC HEARINGS

On November 23, 2004, a Notice of Completion/Release of the Draft EIR/EA was sent to property owners and occupants on or adjacent to the proposed Project, regulatory agencies, and interested parties. The Notice summarized the conclusions of the Draft EIR/EA and included information on how to access the Draft EIR/EA. It also presented the date, time, and location of public hearings on the Draft EIR/EA. Following the release of the Draft EIR/EA, there was a 45-day public review period that extended until January 6, 2005. A notice of the public hearings was mailed to property owners and occupants on or adjacent to the proposed Project. In addition, The Bakersfield Californian, Palo Verde Valley Times, The Desert Dispatch, and Victorville Daily Press also published the notice of the public hearings. Public hearings were held on December 14, 2004, in Bakersfield, California; December 15, 2004, in Barstow, California; and December 16, 2004, in Blythe, California. At these hearings, the public was given the opportunity to ask questions and present oral and/or written testimony on the Draft EIR/EA. The CSLC's and BLM's decision-making process was also explained at the public hearings.

Final EIR/EA Information and Repository Sites

Placing CEQA documents in “repository” sites can be an effective way of providing ongoing information about the Project to a large number of people. Therefore, eight repository sites in the proposed Project area were established, and documents are also available at the CSLC in Sacramento. Informational documents, including the Draft EIR/EA and Finalizing Addendum/EA, have been made available to the public at the locations listed below:

- University of California, Davis, Shields Library, Davis, California
- University of California, Irvine, Main Library, Irvine, California
- University of California, Riverside, Rivera Library, Riverside, California
- Mojave Public Library, Mohave, California
- Lancaster Public Library, Lancaster, California
- Kern County Library, Bakersfield, California
- Palo Verde Valley Library, Blythe, California
- Tehachapi Public Library, Tehachapi, California
- CSLC Internet Website: <http://www.slc.ca.gov>

Public Review Period

In compliance with the State CEQA Guidelines, the CSLC provided a public review period of 45 days for the Draft EIR/EA. The CSLC encouraged written comments on the Draft EIR/EA to be submitted by mail, at the Public Hearings, via facsimile or e-mail transmission, and in person to the CSLC Office in Sacramento.

The comments received by the CSLC during the public review period and at the Public Hearings are reproduced in this Finalizing Addendum/EA along with responses to comments.